

In fact

For The Millions Who Want a Free Press

VOL. I, No. 10 68 SEPT. 23, 1940

George Seldes, Editor; Bruce Minton, Associate Editor

Entered as second-class
matter May 16, 1940, at
the post office at Long
Island City, New York,
under the Act of March
3, 1879.

Published every two weeks and copyright, 1940, in the U. S. A. by IN FACT, Inc., Chaflam-Phenix Building, Long Island City, New York. Special Introductory offer 25 cents for twenty-two issues, 30 cents a year. Foreign, \$1.00 a year.

Police and Press Attack Anti-Conscriptionists

The 5,400 accredited representatives to the Emergency Peace Mobilization in Chicago and the 20,000 who attended the general session, will be able to report to organizations with 12,000,000 members and their friends that they have learned at first hand that the press of the United States is corrupt.

The 600 New York delegates and others who went to Washington, where they influenced the change in voting of 100 congressmen (another story generally suppressed) learned that the police and press with equal brutality can violate law and ethics.

The significant facts about the peace mobilization which almost no newspapers mentioned are:

1. That it was a tremendous enthusiastic success.
2. That the smearing and red-baiting were started by Roy Howard and his 18 Scripps-Howard papers.
3. That one main objective aside from killing the peace movement was to attack the labor movement, notably the CIO.
4. That the nation's press with few exceptions falsified the story.

The Story of Mobilization

When an organization changes the votes of approximately 100 Congressmen, this is ordinarily considered news. When nationally prominent ministers are harried by police, and their followers at a prayer meeting are clubbed by plain-clothesmen and pushed around by U. S. Marines, this is also usually considered newsworthy. But the American press has let such news go for the most part unreported these past weeks, because the ministers, the organization, and the prayer meeting were pledged to resist the Burke-Wadsworth Conscription Bill.

IN FACT herewith gives a few details, deliberately withheld by the nation's press, of the stirring events that occurred in Washington, D. C. since September 3.

On that day 600 New York delegates arrived in Washington by special train from the Emergency Peace Mobilization in Chicago. Every delegate represented some organization—for the most part trade unions, church groups, neighborhood and fraternal societies. Immediately upon their arrival, they were met by police, instructed to remove all buttons from their lapels bearing slogans against war, were forbidden even to carry American flags. Delegations to Congressmen were restricted in size. Most Congressmen refused to see their constituents.

On the following day, eight citizens were arrested in Washington for distributing leaflets calling for defeat of the conscription bill. All were subsequently released, as their arrest had been illegal.

The same morning, a peaceful picket line near entrances to the House and Senate was illegally broken up by police.

Prayer Meeting Attacked

Local ministers, in conjunction with the Rev. Owen Knox, Chairman of the Federation for Constitutional Liberties, called a prayer meeting on Capitol Hill for the evening of September 5. Over 2,500 participated, mostly citizens of Washington. The meeting was surrounded by police, marines in uniform (on leave, "who just happened to be present"), and FBI men. The law-enforcement agents attempted to create a riot, going so far as to propose to some observers that they attack a policeman in order to precipitate a free-for-all fight. When this and provocative remarks (among them anti-Semitic taunts) were unsuccessful, the police attacked with clubs and blackjacks, arrested the Rev. Mr. Knox and Rabbi Moses Miller, Chairman of the Jewish People's Committee, beat praying men and women, injuring three seriously. Dozens received minor bruises, one was taken to the hospital with concussion and severe lacerations.

Result so far of the peace mobilization: 100 Congressmen switched their votes into opposition to conscription; a civil suit was started against terroristic capitol police; the trade unions have offered increasing support to the APM.

Permanent Organization

The action, still continuing in Washington and almost unmentioned in the press, grew out of the Chicago meeting over Labor Day of peace forces throughout America. This remarkable conference, addressed by Francis Townsend, Paul

Arnold Insults Labor

IN FACT learns that Thurman Arnold, Dept. of Justice, has been evasive, rude, and insulting to a committee which called to discuss the arrest and conviction of Irving Potash and other leaders of the International Fur & Leather Workers Union. The committee consisted of Prof. E. A. Ross, head of the American Civil Liberties Union, Judge Anna Kross, Joseph Curran, Mike Woodman of the CIO, Broach of the electrical workers, Dr. Bella Dodd, Paul O'Dwyer, Rev. Owen Knox and Prof. Marguerite Schlauch.

The committee declared the prosecution of labor a perversion of law and justice; they asked Arnold if he intended to continue such practices; they wanted to know if anything could be done for labor leaders already convicted.

Arnold refused to listen. He banged the table and got rid of the committee in short order.

Arnold vs. Henderson

IN FACT Aug. 26 said Arnold would resign unless he could persuade the President to let him prosecute monopolies instead of labor. Armed with his resignation Arnold called at the White House and had it out with FDR. He accused Leon Henderson, member of the Advisory Council for National Defense, of stopping monopoly prosecution on the ground monopolies now aid the defense program, therefore must be spared.

Roosevelt agreed to permit Arnold to sue monopolies. Arnold withdrew resignation. But apparently Arnold's attitude toward labor remains hostile.

State Dept. Fascists

THE native fascists in our State Department for months advised the President and Secretary Hull not to invite President-elect Camacho of Mexico to lunch in the White House—and thus encouraged a fascist revolution by Almazan.

Invitation to lunch would have meant much in the history of Mexico: it would have impeded or ended plans for a reactionary revolt, smashed Almazan's hopes. But the State Department fascists, who previously had stabbed the Spanish Republic, and frequently acted for Standard Oil and British Shell Oil, rather than in behalf of American democracy, persuaded FDR and Hull not to invite Camacho. IN FACT knew this weeks ago from diplomatic sources.

Sept. 14, Washington correspondents put Hull on the spot. Hull had to admit Camacho would be welcome "if he cared to visit."

The N. Y. Times adds: "No revolts against any Mexican regime supported by Washington have been successful in more than 15 years." This is an amazing admission that the U. S. State Department has supported revolutions.

Mexican officials informed IN FACT Almazan would win or lose a revolution, depending entirely on the State Department and oil company support.

Robeson, Rev. John B. Thompson of the Southern Conference of Human Welfare, Michael Quill, transport workers; Joseph Curran, seamen; Reid Robinson, mine, mill, smelter workers; Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York, and many others, pledged itself to fight for preservation of America's peace. Not a pacifist meeting, every speaker emphasized that war could be resisted only by preserving democracy at home, which meant specifically the preservation of social legislation, the protection of trade unions from government persecution, the safeguarding of the rights of aliens, minority political parties, Negroes, and all other minorities.

From the Chicago meeting grew the permanent organization calling itself the American Peace Mobilization, sponsored by hundreds of prominent Americans. The editor of *IN FACT* is proud to take his place with them as sponsor of the APM, and to stress the organization's call for "Volunteers for Peace."

Real Objective: Harming the CIO

The real objective of the press in attacking the peace mobilization was to attack labor. This is obvious from the turn the smear took in the rest of the papers, notably the *New York Times* (which has just been found guilty of unfair labor practices). The press of the United States, with very few exceptions, is out to kill the Wagner Act. For more than a year it made a hero out of William Green of the AFL whenever he spoke for amendments, but now that Green has tentatively joined Lewis in demanding the maintenance of this law the newspapers, as spokesmen for the industries which have to pay higher wages, are more determined than ever either to amend the act into ineffectiveness or to change the Labor Board into a pro-employer organization.

The *Times* started its attack Aug. 26 with "UNION 'PEACE FRONT' SPLITS CIO HERE: CURRAN IS REBUKED." Next day: "DEMAND SENATORS SHUN 'PEACE FRONT'." The smearers of the *Times* quoted a union's secretary saying Curran was attempting to "drag the name of the CIO into the so-called 'peace front' which has been organized by Communists, Nazis, and other fifth-columnists." This apparently is libel-proof, just as it would be libel-proof to say that Sulzberger and Adler of the *Times* are Fascists, Mussolini-lovers, agents of J. P. Morgan, etc. The difference is: the *Times* smears reach the most influential half-million in America.

World-Telegram Started Smear

The *World-Telegram*, leading enemy of labor and especially of the CIO (which has been smeared in all Scripps-Howard papers from coast to coast), started the attempt to smash the peace conference, Aug. 23, with a story headed "LABOR DAY ANTI-WAR PARLEY IS REDS' BABY: MOST NON-COMMUNIST PACIFISTS SHUN IT." Editor & Publisher says it was written by S. Burton Heath, Pulitzer Prize winner.

The chief person smeared by the *World-Telegram* was Joseph Curran, head of the Maritime Union, the heads of the most militant unions in America—and therefore anathema to the labor-hating *World-Telegram*. Said the W-T of the NMU: "described by the Dies Committee as Communist-dominated."

Other persons attacked by the Howard paper: Marcantonio, John P. Davis of the National Negro Congress, Dr. Max Yergan. By using phrases such as "others with alleged frequently Communist affiliations, direct or through their organizational alliances," the W-T smeared Abram Flaxner of the municipal workers, Michael Quill, fiery leader of the CIO transport workers; Professor Boas of Columbia, Dr. Neff of City College, Morris Watson of the Newspaper Guild, Rev. Owen Knox of Detroit, Dr. Bella V. Dodd of the Teachers Union, Paul Robeson, and the editor of *IN FACT*.

Letter to the Editor

The following letter was sent to the *World-Telegram* by the editor of *IN FACT*:

If you are an honest newspaper you will publish this letter. If you are dishonest, I will publish it in my paper.

Your attack on the Peace Mobilization in Chicago is a smear. A smear, I might point out, is the new journalistic tactic of damning or ruining a person or movement without committing libel. You are within the law. But you are unethical.

I endorsed the peace mobilization because I believe with the CIO, the American Federation of Labor, the Railroad Brotherhoods, the National Catholic Welfare Conference and others that there is no evidence of an emergency, therefore no necessity whatever for the Burke conscription bill—peacetime conscription which is one of the symptoms of Fascism.

As a result of my endorsement you say in your paper today: "George Seldes, frequently verbal defender of Communist organizations, described as a fellow traveler."

This statement is a lie and a smear.

I have not defended Communist organizations verbally; I am not a fellow traveler. I am not a Communist. I am a newspaper man who believes in unions, a member of the CIO, and my chief activity for years has been exposing the corruption of the newspapers.

This attack on the peace mobilization is a piece of crooked journalism.

Roy Howard's Brass Checker

THE meanest publisher in America, according to the Newspaper Guild, is Roy Howard. Newspaper workers of the New York *World-Telegram*, *Cleveland Press*, *Pittsburgh Press*, *Cincinnati Post*, *San Francisco News*, *Indianapolis Times*, *Birmingham Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*, know Howard as an enemy of labor, the hardest hearted employer in journalism.

Westbrook Pegler is one of Howard's shoeblack lickers, one of his few big money employees. He is anti-labor.

Aug. 28 Pegler wrote: "This American Newspaper Guild is a detached auxiliary, or transmission belt, of the Communist Party."

This is a lie. The Guild frequently has denied the false charges. Journalistic prostitution is an old story, but it is usually done subtly. The brass check writer is usually not expected to tell outright lies.

Pressure on Unionists

AS a result of the vicious and lying campaign against the American Newspaper Guild conducted in the Scripps-Howard press by Westbrook Pegler, two leading guildsmen have had a very unfortunate experience. Agnes Fahy, Newark, and Ed Wood of the Bronx Home News have been called on the carpet by the steering committee of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, lectured for voting for the majority report at the Guild Memphis national convention, and asked to resign because the ACTU believes the Pegler lie that the Guild is Communist-controlled, a Stalin colt, Trojan horse, or mare of another color, namely, "Red."

Miss Fahy is president of the Newark branch and member of the Jersey executive board of the ACTU.

Fake Ad Anti CIO

THE page in the *N. Y. Times* and other papers advertising the Saturday Evening Post contained a lie and vicious attack on the CIO.

Boosting its biographical article on Columnist Pegler the ad says: "Watch a columnist whip away at a CIO leader until justice officials nab him on charges of forgery and larceny."

No CIO leader has ever been implicated in racketeering, none has ever faced charges of forgery and larceny.

The *Times* takes this lying ad attacking the CIO but refuses truthful ads for Consumers Union which exposes bad food, drugs, and ads. This is also called freedom of the press.

Howard as News Supresser

WHEN Westbrook Pegler among his first pieces as a general columnist (instead of sports writer) wrote in favor of the San Jose lynching and for lynching in general (because of delays in law), Howard did not suppress Pegler, but almost every columnist has been suppressed for writing liberal, intelligent pieces, and certain news items are generally suppressed in the Scripps-Howard papers. Here are a few:

1. Suppressed General Johnson's column saying of John L. Lewis: "One of the best in public life. . . . We would be better off if some of our leaders in both political and business life were more like John Lewis."

2. Suppressed Pegler on General Franco saying "If I were a Spaniard who had seen Franco's missionary work among

the children I might see him in hell but never in church."

3. Suppressed cartoons by Rollin Kirby, also actually had another artist fix up Kirby's drawings to suit World-Telegram policy. This particularly dirty work was done by Lee B. Wood, executive editor and stockholder. Kirby therefore resigned.

4. Censored and edited Heywood Broun. Wood's work here was the equivalent of ham actor rewriting Shakespeare.

5. Suppressed the name of the Herald Tribune in the La Follette committee's list of 2,500 corporations employing gangsters, thugs and murderers as strike-breakers, stoolpigeons and spies.

6. Cut Raymond Clapper piece on Roosevelt and reorganization fight to change meaning completely.

7. Suppressed Clapper's later piece exposing fake news on the subject.

8. Eliminated Dorothy Dunbar Bromley's column suggesting transfer of naval funds to housing projects.

9. Yanked after first edition Wortman cartoon showing one unemployed telling another: "After all, there's no use denying jobs are scarce; even a good scab can't find work now."

10. Printed a series of articles defending Mayor Hague after Post began series exposing corruption, crookedness, violation constitutional rights by Hague machine.

11. Suppressed stories about libel suits, notably \$500,000 suit against WT (Jan '38); \$100,000 suit against Birmingham Post filed by Lyle White; Transradio suit against United Press, etc.

12. Yanked, after first edition, whole letter department because writers criticized WT on Hearst Chicago strike stand.

13. United Press suppressed a story by sending following private wire all editors: ("NX FYI RECORD BOO OF CVN WAS 74 DECIBELS WHEN BARKLEY MENTIONED L3-4/5-WK"). FYI means "for your information." L3-4/5-WK is Hearst. Hearst got the greatest Boo at the 1936 convention, but the news was suppressed; similarly the Chicago Tribune got the greatest booing at the Chicago convention in 1940.

14. WT had 4-col. head COUGHLIN TO FACE INQUIRY BY JUSTICE DEPARTMENT Jan. 29, '40, Home edition; it was cut to almost nothing in 7 p.m. edition and replaced with 4-col. head saying Russians bombed a hospital in Helsinki (which was a fake story).

Scripps-Howard reporters have additional hundreds of cases of distortion, suppression, faking of news. The Associated Press as well as the United Press and the International News Service have been caught in the same situation. There are not a handful of newspapers in America which can claim they never suppress the news.

Two Corrections

THERE should be a law in the United States requiring newspapers to publish corrections, same place, same size, when persons or organizations are wrongfully reported. The American press generally refuses to do so unless there is a chance of loss of money in libel suit.

Despite its extremely limited space IN FACT is glad to make two corrections. The Milwaukee Journal did report the State AFL statement against the Burke bill Aug. 2. We looked for it Aug. 4.

The B&O railroad changed its mind and despite administration pressure, did give the peace mobilization delegates a special roundtrip fare.

World-Telegram, Anti-Semitic

Under Roy Howard's guidance the World-Telegram has become more and more anti-Semitic, although the fact is carefully covered up so as not to anger the Strauses of Macy's, the Gimbel's, and the other big advertisers. Open anti-Semitism rarely gets into the paper, but it permeates the office.

Robert Garland, former dramatic critic of the World-Telegram, made the following statement (February 26, 1939):

"When I needed an assistant and Roy Howard agreed to give me one, I got about a dozen persons to submit sample reviews. The most likely person I found to be William Boehnel, who did movie reviews. His review was the best and my interview with him showed him the most capable. When I submitted my selection to Mr. Howard, Howard said, 'But isn't Boehnel a Jew . . . ?'

"The question of race or religion had never entered my mind. Mr. Boehnel is rather dark and might be taken for a semite, although I later found out he is not a Jew. 'What of it?' I replied.

"'We don't want Jews on this paper,' Roy Howard answered."

Fake Story Smears Jews

Recently PM, the new daily, caught the World-Telegram faking the news and smearing the Jews at the same time. Evidently the anti-Semitism which Howard inspires in the office does creep into the news column. This story said that on a ship carrying Americans who had fought for the Finns "eighteen Polish Jews with money, all refugees from the Nazi conquest, had occupied the berths in the staterooms. The soldiers in the hold who had no money slept in hammocks and on makeshift bunks."

The story was a lie. The refugees were mostly Austrians, Catholics, Protestants and Jews. Few had money. Mostly women and children slept in the cabins, eight in a cabin built for two.

Roy Howard, Fifth Columnist?

According to Roosevelt one leading citizen of the U. S. has refused a request that he help in the national defense. That man is Roy Howard, head of the United Press, Scripps-Howard papers, etc. From the viewpoint of the President and the supporters of the Burke-Wadsworth Bill, and all persons who believe that there is an emergency involving the safety of the United States (rather than the markets of Latin America, Mexican oil, and other commercial profits) the one man who refused to aid national defense must therefore be a big Fifth Columnist.

Roy Howard did not refuse to help national defense because he believes that the whole business is a hoax, or because it is based on a plan to dominate Latin American trade, or because he believes the reports of generals and admirals that Hitler cannot invade America even with the British fleet at his command. Mr. Howard refused to aid national defense because he hates the President and the New Deal, the CIO, labor, social reform, and the entire program of help and protection for the people upon which the elder Scripps founded the Scripps chain of newspapers. Mr. Howard has been hit in the pocketbook, and that he cannot forgive.

Howard Papers, Tax Dodgers

Everyone in the newspaper business knows that one big reason the press was 80 to 90% against Roosevelt in two campaigns was its dislike to pay taxes. Newspaper owners such as Col. McCormick, Paul Block, Max Annenberg and Roy Howard, who have no social sense whatever and who have never used their newspapers for anything except to get rich, hate above everything else in this world to give up a nickel. The greediest publisher in America is Roy Howard, notorious for paying smaller salaries (until the CIO Newspaper Guild stepped in) than any newspaper owner in the country.

When the U. S. Treasury published its sensational list of the biggest business men who had dodged taxes by forming holding companies, the newspaper publishers were right up front among the Du Font's and Mellons. Here is a list of some of them, what they paid, what they would have had to pay if they hadn't tricked the government:

Roy Howard	Nothing	\$79,933
W. W. Hawkins Co. (Howard)	Nothing	24,029
Robert F. Scripps	Nothing	59,840
Tenn. Co. (Hawkins-Howard)	Nothing	26,462
W. W. Hawkins Co. (Hawkins-Howard)	\$251.24	36,000

The Scripps-Howard boys, owners of the World-Telegram, Pittsburgh Press, Cleveland Press, United Press news service, etc. paid a total of \$251.24 and dodged taxes of \$226,264. The government exposed this trick which saved Scripps-Howard a quarter million and ever since then Roy Howard has been fighting for an administration, Democratic or Republican does not matter, which will not make him pay taxes.

(The other big tax dodgers were: Andrew W. Mellon, Pierre du Pont, J. J. Raskob, William Dewart, owner of the N. Y. Sun; Paul Block, the publisher; Alfred P. Sloan, Thomas W. Lamont, Jacob Ruppert).

Suppression of News in Chicago

The Chicago newspapers tried their best to suppress the news of the Emergency Peace Mobilization, and to smear it. Reporters, mostly Newspaper Guildsmen, told Mobilization officials the truth about the crooked, unethical work in their own offices. A representative of the Hearst Herald-American declared orders had been given to disregard EPM committee's publicity. The Chicago Tribune, Herald-American and Times refused to send reporters to the conference called by the Rev. John B. Thompson, chairman. Frank Hayes of the Daily News was the only representative of the commercial press present.

People Lose Faith in Newspapers

On Sunday, Sept. 1, the Chicago Herald-American said the attendance was 8,000; the Tribune had 11,000; the Times 20,000.

Saturday the Daily News, which was anxious to kill the conference, reported jubilantly: "ONLY 1,500 ATTEND STADIUM 'PEACE RALLY,'" but gave its own story the lie by saying in the body that there were 1,500 delegates from New York alone.

The crookedness of the American press was mentioned several times by speakers. The 20,000 persons who paid from 40¢ to \$1 to attend the general meeting will never again have any faith in newspapers.

Roosevelt Quits Writers League

For two years Franklin Delano Roosevelt as the writer of several books has been known to the 800 members of the League of American Writers as a colleague. The League never tried to gain publicity from Roosevelt's membership but valued it highly.

Three or four months ago, at the time Roosevelt definitely abandoned the New Deal, at the time he denounced Thomas Jefferson as a Jacobin (at the Jackson Day dinner) Mr. Roosevelt resigned from the League.

The League's chief activity is fighting Fascism, both the native American brand which masquerades as super-patriotism, and the foreign brand of the Cliveden Setters and 200 French Families. The League recently issued a statement on peace which 350 writers signed (and the 100 leading newspapers suppressed). As a result Catherine Garrison Chapin Biddle, wife of the solicitor general, resigned.

Thurman Arnold is still a member. The League is investigating his fitness to remain because the League is liberal and progressive, therefore decidedly pro-labor, and Arnold's office is fighting labor. The League is investigating Arnold's statement that he has been forced to use the Sherman Act against labor by order of F.D.R.—ex-member of the League.

Don't Follow the Headlines Into the Front Lines!

With the press misrepresenting the news and whipping up hysteria, it's more important than ever to stick to the facts. . . . Facts that reveal the real enemies of the American people. . . . Facts that expose the "powers" interested in sending American soldiers to foreign territory. . . . Facts that are indispensable for calm and objective evaluation of news.

While on the subject of facts, IN FACT must reach a circulation of 100,000 before it can seriously consider becoming a weekly news letter. In other words a weekly is still up to you. If your cooperation continues IN FACT will reach the 100,000 mark by January, 1941.

Special Introductory Offer—22 issues for 25 cents

IN FACT, Inc.

Chatham-Phenix Building,
Long Island City, N. Y.

Enclosed you will find \$_____ for _____ (22 issues) subscription(s) to IN FACT for:

Name _____

Address _____

City and State _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Terror Against the Negroes

THE need of building up national defense to the tune of \$19 billion in war appropriations to be distributed among the biggest corporations has been offered as an excuse by President Roosevelt for his refusal to push through legislation abolishing the poll tax and the anti-lynch bill.

New attacks on the Negro people during the last weeks include:

One hundred white vigilantes attempted to bomb Negro homes in Dallas, Texas, because Negro families had moved into a former "white" neighborhood.

The sixth officially recorded lynching of 1940 occurred in LaGrange, Georgia, when six masked white men forced a local jailer to release 16-year-old Austin Callaway, accused of having attacked a white woman. The mob shot Callaway to death.

The above cases are typical. They by no means exhaust the outrages against Negro citizens that have occurred even in the past few weeks.

Conscription Aftermath

THE passage of the Burke-Wadsworth Compulsory Conscription Act, which IN FACT warned was a serious step toward the fascism of America, has already given impetus to bills which would completely blot out American democracy.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs has been holding hearings on two measures which would permit the creation of groups of government-sponsored storm troops. These bills were introduced by the committee chairman, Senator Sheppard of Texas.

The Voorhis Registration bill, the Celler Wire-Tapping bill, the Hobbs bill to create concentration camps, the Dempsey bill for the deportation of aliens who may discuss politics (such as expressing preference for Willkie over Roosevelt), have all been passed by the House, and are likely to be rushed through the Senate unless protest movements are quick and strong enough to prevent their passage. In addition, the Sheppard-Sumners bill already introduced in Congress would outlaw all strikes "in the name of U. S. defense."



Special Notice To All Subscribers

Because of the low subscription price for IN FACT it is essential that five cents in coin or stamps accompany all changes of address. Unless this is done we cannot guarantee the delivery of IN FACT to the new address. This rule applies even if your change of address is turned into the post office. Please show OLD as well as the NEW address.